



North York Moors

Local Access Forum

North York Moors National Park Authority, The Old Vicarage, Bondgate,
Helmsley, York, YO62 5BP

Public Minutes of the meeting held at The Old Vicarage, Helmsley on 6 December 2011.

Present: J Bateman, J Batt, S Borman, B Briggs, P Cody, Mrs C Cook, Mrs C Cussons, G Dawson, P Hay, Mrs J King, Mrs M Mitchell, Ms A Peacock, Mrs N Taylor, G Winn-Darley

Apologies: Lady E Kirk, S Scoffin

Officers in Attendance: Karl Gerhardsen (Head of Recreation and Access), Sarah Blakemore (Access Officer), Sarah Housden (Policy Manager), Fiona Farnell (Committees Officer)

Copies of All Documents Considered are in the Minute Book

37/11 Election of Chairman

Resolved:

That Mrs N Taylor be elected Chair of the Local Access Forum, to take office until the next Annual General Meeting of the Local Access Forum.

The Chair thanked everyone for their vote of confidence and welcomed J Bateman back for a further 3 year term.

38/11 Election of Deputy Chair

Resolved:

That Mrs C Cook be elected Chair of the Local Access Forum, to take office until the next Annual General Meeting of the Local Access Forum.

39/11 Minutes

Resolved:

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2011, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the amended at minute 29/11, second bullet point to read 'A small subgroup of LAF would meet to discuss ideas with regards to transport and visitor centres under the present financial crisis'.

40/11 **Matters Arising**

Malton to Pickering Cycle route

The Chair read out the proposed letter to be sent to Pickering and Malton Town Council, Kirkby Misperton, Great Habton and Thornton le Dale Parish Council, the Chief Executive of Ryedale District Council and North York Moors National Park and P Roberts (Transportation and Development Engineer) North Yorkshire County Council. Members agreed to the letters being sent.

In answer to a query from a Member the Head of Recreation and Access informed Members that work on the definitive map would continue for a further two years and then after this time there would be capacity to do only a very few map and public path orders. It is anticipated that after that time the Authority would be able to meet its statutory duty, however a meeting with the County Council is due to be held in the near future.

41/11 **National Park Management Plan (separate document)**

The Policy Manager gave a powerpoint presentation, a copy of which appears in the minute book.

The Chair noted that Members could also complete an individual questionnaire.

Members made the following comments:

- Better promoting and marketing of the National Park is required.
- The document mentions visitors a lot but the residents of the Park also need to be catered for.
- The equestrian industry should not be forgotten, it brings in a significant amount of money to the Park on an annual basis.
- The wording 'detrimental effect' on page 35 needs qualifying
- More could be done with the major estates, focusing on their management plans to improve recreation facilities.
- Need to justify why an increase in the number of volunteers is identified as a challenge.
- 'Experience economy' on Page 38 - needs to be made clearer in supporting text.
- Page 39 – Does monitoring currently take place? Should the Authority be seeking 100% rights of way easy to use and if not why not.
- Page 40 – Should there be a reference to socio economic groups rather than specific under represented groups?
- The reputation of the access roads to the Park (ie A64) may play a part in decreasing visitor numbers

The Head of Recreation and Access in answer to a question from a Member noted that the 85% target for Public Rights of Way – easy to use was achievable with the current staff resource.

42/11 **National Park Authority Business Plan 2012 -2015 to discuss access related priorities for the Business Plan**

The Head of Recreation and Access gave a powerpoint presentation, a copy of which appears in the minute book.

Members made the following comments under the different policy headings:

Policy – The public will be able to enjoy the National Park using the rights of way network and open access areas.

DRAFT

Members thoughts: Ask in visitor surveys if a right of way was used while visiting

- Promote area as a mountain bike area
- Publicise circulate routes for all users – many people struggle with navigation
- Put more walks on the website
- Market the Coast to Coast, Cleveland Way and Moors to Sea more.
- Delivery Actions – 2 and 3 to change places

Policy – Opportunities to enjoy the National Park will be available to a wide cross section of society.

Members thoughts: Believe that work should be done within a 30 – 40 mile radius of the Park not just specifically Teesside and Scarborough

- If circular walks available near to where people live they will be used more and help with health agenda.
- Educate children outside the classroom, they will in turn educate their children
- Delivery Actions – change order to 2, 3, 1 with 3 being expanded.

Policy – Conflicts between recreation and the interests of communities, land managers and other user groups will be minimised

Members thoughts: Put more information about countryside rules on the website

- Publicise what Way-marks mean

Policy – Conflicts between recreation and conservation of the special qualities of the National Park will be minimised

Members thoughts – Believe that this policy and the policy above should be joined together.

Policy – The public will be able to improve their health and well-being through reconnecting with nature.

Members thoughts – Send information of health walks to local hospitals.

- Put health walks on the website.
- Try more volunteering in the community rather than volunteers travelling great distances.

Policy – Local communities will enjoy improved access and be engaged in developing and managing local access.

Members thoughts - Volunteer groups in local communities to enable access

Policy – There will be opportunities for people to access the National Park without a car

The Officer informed Members that the Authority was working with the County Council to put together a bid to central government which needed to be submitted by February 2012, which was to include implementing Whitby Park and Ride, work in the Esk Valley including electric bicycles, infrastructure on unmetalled roads, bridleway work, better information on connecting transport and a bus service linking communities

Members thoughts: Become a green tourism provider

- Encourage short walks from peoples' doors
- Refreshing to see new opportunities .
- Delivery Actions – Change Order to 2, 4, 5, 3, 1

43/11 **Consultation on Statutory Reviews of CROW Act Directions – Barkers Craggs and Raisdale Moor**

Considered:

The report of the Access Officer

Recommendation:

That the Forum gives its view on the existing directions at Barkers Craggs and Raisdale Moor as to whether each is still necessary for its original purpose and whether the extent and nature of the restriction is still appropriate.

Resolved:

That Members agreed that the extent and nature of the restriction is still appropriate.

44/11 **Draft UUR Policy from Highways**

The Head of Recreation and Access informed Members that the draft document would not be ready until January 2012 and Members would be emailed when the consultation begins and directed to the County Council website.

A Member noted that there were a significant number of routes missing off the map attached to the agenda. The Officer noted this and confirmed that Officers were aware of some missing links which have been identified for targeting.

45/11 **Annual Report**

The Annual Report was noted. An amendment was required to the 'area of representation' for Mrs C Cook to Owner/Occupier.

46/11 **Report Back from the National Park Authority**

Mr Briggs read out a detailed note (a copy of which appears in the minute book).

47/11 **Huddle**

Considered:

The report of the LAF Secretary.

Recommendation:

That the Local Access Forum may wish to consider their future involvement with the Huddle workspace and consider identifying a Huddle Champion to be responsible for this if necessary.

Resolved:

That Members would wait for more information to become available.

48/11 **Benefits for SSSI in England and Wales**

The information was noted.

49/11 Cropton Forest East Right of Way extinguishment and creation stopping/creation

Documentation from Lady Kirk was circulated in her absence, a copy of which appears in the minute book.

Members noted that it was an excellent example of historic routes being used for modern times.

The Chair thanked the Head of Recreation and Access for the work he had done.

50/11 Moorsbus – feedback from sub group advising on options for post 2013

A Member of the sub-group circulated documentation, a copy of which appears in the minute book.

The Head of Recreation and Access informed Members that Moorsbus would be running for a further two years and then the Authority had allocated £100K to be used for transportation within the Park. The Officer noted that in another years time the Authority would be in a better position to look at future possibilities. Members agreed to defer this item to another meeting when responses had been received to letter sent by the sub-group.

51/11 Items for Future Meetings

- Huddle Progress
- National Park Committee Structure
- UUR Policy Update
- Volunteering – organisation, staffing, geography and finance